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INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIC STRIKES HONAN;
STARTS NATION-WIDE ANTITUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN

MEASLES, DIPHTHERIA, SMALLPOX SEVERE -- Wen-hui Pao, 27 Jan 50

K'ai-feng, 26 January -- The Honan Province People's government has organized an Antiplague Committee to combat the epidemic of acute infectious diseases now prevalent in Honan Province.

The infectious diseases include measles, smallpox, encephalitis, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and kala azar. The epidemic of measles, diphtheria, and smallpox is especially severe.

The infected areas are located in 15 hsiens, in the special districts of Nan-yang, Ch'en-liu, Hsia-chou, Huai-yang, and Hsin-yang, and also in K'ai-feng, Cheng-chou, and Lo-yang.

In six districts of Cheng Hsien, 400 people were afflicted with measles; in Chen-p'ing Hsien, some 120 victims died of measles and other diseases; and in six townships of Hsin-yang Hsien, about 40 children died of smallpox.

The Antiplague Committee is headed by Niu P'ei-ts'ung (Ueda: 7072, 263, 7321), Deputy Chairman of the Honan Province People's government. The members of the committee consist of responsible officials from government agencies and hospitals. Positive action is now being taken by the committee to control the epidemic and to carry out emergency relief work.

KOCH'S BACILLUS INOCULATIONS TO BE USED -- Wen-hui Pao, 31 Jan 50

Pei-p'ing, 30 January (Hsin-hua) -- This year, the Ministry of Public Health of the Central People's government will launch a large-scale anti-tuberculosis campaign in the major cities of China. In this campaign, more than 1,240,000 people will be given tuberculin tests or be inoculated with Koch's bacillus.

Koch's bacillus is a live [sic] bacillus used as a prophylaxis against consumption. It was first used in France and accepted by the medical profession for more than 20 years as a safe treatment. In the past, some individuals

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in China have produced Koch's bacillus. However, the reactionary Kuomintang government did not permit its wide use because it had no interest in promoting people's health.

Since the liberation of Pei-p'ing last year, Koch's bacillus has been produced at the Altar of Heaven Anti plague Laboratory and distributed to various health agencies in Pei-p'ing and T'ien-ching. The bacillus was also produced at the Shang-hai Health Bureau's anti plague laboratory after Shanghai was liberated. By the end of 1949, approximately 16,135 people in Pei-p'ing and T'ien-ching were inoculated and 93 percent of these cases indicated effective results.

Toward the end of 1949, the Ministry of Public Health held a conference of medical personnel and decided that an antituberculosis campaign will be carried out in the following cities during 1950: Pei-p'ing, Pao-ting, Ch'ang-chia-k'ou (Kalgan), Shih-chia-chuang, T'ien-ching, T'ang-shan, Chi-nan, Ch'ing-tao, Shang-hai, Nan-ching, Wu-Han, and Shen-yang. One million persons in these cities will be given tuberculin tests while another 240,000 will be inoculated with Koch's bacillus vaccine. All expenses will be covered by the government.

The production of Koch's bacillus during 1950, will be carried out in Pei-p'ing and Shang-hai. To encourage the production of this bacillus, a training class was recently organized in Pei-p'ing.

NE TEAM FIGHTS PLAGUE IN SOUTH KWANTUNG -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 18 Feb 50

Kuang-chou, 9 February -- On 7 February 1950, the Central Anti plague Team equipped with approximately one million units of Soviet-manufactured vaccines, was rushed into the Sui-ch'i Hsien area of southern Kwangtung Province to stem a serious plague outbreak.

The team is composed of 155 plague experts and has had wide experience in anti plague work in Northeast China. Established in 1947 in the Liaosi Province of Northeast China, the team worked for 2 years in plague epidemic areas under Soviet experts and is well-trained in Soviet anti plague techniques. While in Northeast China, this team was known as the Mobile Anti plague Unit, but it changed its name to Central Anti plague Team before leaving for the plague areas in southern Kwangtung. The team is headed by Fan Wen-po (Ueda: 5808, 4321, 1016).

Following the report of the death of nine people from this disease in Kuan-t'ien-ts'un, located east of the Yüeh-hsü in Sui-ch'i Hsien, the Chan-chiang Military Control Commission and an unidentified unit of the People's Liberation Army dispatched medical as well as laboratory specialists to the scene and were instrumental in stemming the epidemic and prevented further deaths, but failed to prevent the outbreak of new cases. Consequently, realizing the urgency of the situation, the Central People's government issued emergency orders to have the Central Anti plague Team carry out thorough anti plague work in the afflicted area.

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